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SUBJECT: REPS KIRK-LARSEN MEET VICE PREMIER WANG QISHAN

REF: (A) Beijing 1473; (B) Beijing 1500; (C) Beijing 1518; (D)
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he is a "little worried" as the responsible official, Wang is even more concerned. That said, Wang pointed out that debate over reforming the international financial system should be viewed as part of a long-term process, not something that would be implemented in the near future or a viable way to fix current problems.

¶7. (SBU) Wang said that for now, given America's economic pre-eminence and China's huge exposure to the fortunes of the U.S. economy, the United States is still "calling the shots" in the relationship, and power shifts to the borrower when it is as powerful as the United States. The convergence of interests made it impossible for China to do anything other than hope for an early and full U.S. economic recovery. He was confident about the prospects for recovery, whether it took two or four or five years, pointing out that humankind had overcome far greater perils during the 20th Century's two world wars. He also said that human progress, fueled by constant technological innovation, was unstoppable. He said that innovation would be the key to solving global environmental problems without asking people to give up their cars and air conditioners. Finally, Wang said the three meetings of the G20 over such a short time span were both unprecedented and a clear sign that the world's leaders were seriously committed to working together, and this also gave him confidence about the future. He noted that while there had been a consensus in the G-20 between China and the United States on how to respond to the global financial crisis and spur growth, there remand significant disagreement with and within Europe.

¶8. (U) Representatives Kirk and Larsen did not have the opportunity to clear this message before departing.

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